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Contract

Provision of an Official Veterinary Service for the Imported Food Office (LHR)

London Borough of Hillingdon

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-036390

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04233a

Published 11 December 2023, 3:15pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

London Borough of Hillingdon

Civic Centre, High Street

Uxbridge

UB8 1UW

Email

amayo@hillingsdon.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK174 - Harrow and Hillingdon

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.hillingdon.gov.uk

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of an Official Veterinary Service for the Imported Food Office (LHR)

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85200000 - Veterinary services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Checks on imports from the EU were originally due to commence from 1 July 2022. However, prior to that, in April 2022, the Brexit Opportunities Minister released a statement advising that all plans for EU-Transition-related imported food clearances had been put on hold until 2023 to allow time for the development of a target operating model which would set out a revised approach to these controls.

The subsequent Border Target Operating Model (TOM) was released by the Cabinet Office on 29 August 2023. This Target Operating Model changes the approach that the Council's Imported Food Office (IFO) follows, not only for imports from the EU, but also for those from the rest of the world.

The new checks are currently scheduled to be introduced from April 2024.

For the Council to maintain its statutory obligations for the inspection and clearance of imported products of animal origin (POAO), it is necessary to have in place a contract for the provision of veterinary services. What remains unknown at this stage is the number of consignments that the IFO is likely to receive from the EU. Therefore, until this information is received, it is difficult to determine what the full impact will be on checks at London Heathrow Airport. It is also not known at this stage what changes there will be to trade patterns once checks on EU imports are introduced. For this reason, a single tender action was recommended to make a direct award to Senlac Associates, the Council's current provider of veterinary services for a two-year proposal provided by Senlac Associates.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £1,095,014

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKI74 - Harrow and Hillingdon

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Checks on imports from the EU were originally due to commence from 1 July 2022. However, prior to that, in April 2022, the Brexit Opportunities Minister released a statement advising that all plans for EU-Transition-related imported food clearances had been put on hold until 2023 to allow time for the development of a target operating model which would set out a revised approach to these controls.

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II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

The current contract with Senlac Associates expires on 31 March 2024. Given the recently confirmed change in the checks required on products of animal origin, there is an increased level of uncertainty and therefore, it would not be prudent to go out to tender as potentially interested bidders would be basing their tenders on the existing volume of consignments, which does not reflect a true indication of the future service requirements.

It is anticipated that the potential impact of the EU Exit will become clearer during the two-year contract term recommended in this report and, accordingly, it is proposed that the Council goes out to tender for a new contract starting in April 2026.

Once the volume of consignments and required inspections is stabilised, extensive pre-tender market engagement in Q1 of 2025/26 so that the market has a full understanding of requirements when the tender is advertised

It is anticipated that the potential impact of the EU Exit will become clearer during the two-year contract term recommended in this report and, accordingly, it is proposed that the Council goes out to tender for a new contract starting in April 2026.

Once the volume of consignments and required inspections is stabilised, Procurement will work with officers from the IFO to develop the new service requirements. These will be supported by clear and concise volume data, alongside extensive pre-tender market engagements in Q1 of 2025/26 so that the market has a full understanding of requirements when the tender is advertised.

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

20 October 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Senlac Associates

15 Sandringham House, 44 Windsor Way

London

W14 0UD

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKI3 - Inner London – West

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,095,014

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court of England and Wales (Royal Courts of Justice)

Strand

London

WC1A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom